



EVERY ISSUE, YOU CAN DEVELOP AN OUTSTANDING, WELL BALANCED WINE LIST AND WINE BY-THE-GLASS PROGRAM FROM THE WINES RECOMMENDED HERE.



USA

(WHITE, ROSE & RED WINES)
(from California, unless noted otherwise)


RESTAURANT WINE®'S EVALUATION SYSTEM

QUALITY ratings are:

★★★★★ **EXCEPTIONAL** quality for its type and style; a superstar within its price category. Merits an extra special effort to purchase. Very highly recommended.

★★★★ **EXCELLENT** quality for its type, style, and price. Among the very best of its type for its price. Highly recommended.

★★★ **VERY GOOD** quality for its type, style, and price. Has distinctive character and positive attributes. Recommended.

 Unusually smooth for the wine's type and age.

1.5 liter Wine is available in 1.5 liter size, at a discount to the **375 m.l.** 750 m.l. case price; available in half bottles

[2003-2004] Anticipated peak drinkability, not aging potential.

Space permits RESTAURANT WINE® only to include wines with 3 star (★★★) ratings or higher.

★★★★★★★★★★


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We taste 3-4 times as many wines for each issue as appear in these pages. The top 155 wines are included here.

WINES & WINERIES TO WATCH

Cuvaison's '01 Estate Selection Chardonnay is its best-ever (pg. 14) . . . Rancho Zabaco's '02 Dancing Bull Sauvignon is remarkably good (pg. 14) . . . Echelon's '01 Cabernet is superb, and its '01 Merlot is not far behind (pg. 15) . . . 2000 Cabernets to seek out include those from Corison, Edgewood, Girard, Louis M. Martini, and Stonestreet (pg. 15) . . . California Syrah-based wines just get better and better, as in Hess Select '01, Morgan '01 Cotes du Crow's, Chalone '01 Gavilan Red, Jade Mountain '00 (pgs. 18) . . . Scherrer Winery is making a name for itself with Pinot Noir (pg. 17) . . . Argentina's Septima is producing some of the world's best wine values (pg. 18) . . . Buckeley's is a consistent producer of top value Australian varietals, notably Cabernet Shiraz, Merlot, and Shiraz (pgs. 19,20) . . . Chile is showing a deft hand with Malbec (pg. 21) . . . Tortoise Creek delivers excellent wines at very reasonable prices from the south of France (pg. 21) . . . The 2002 Beaujolais vintage was excellent, and those from Duboeuf are better than ever (pg. 21) . . . Villa Maria's Rieslings are fine wines at reasonable prices (pg. 23).

USA CHARDONNAY - High Priced: \$121-\$200/case (\$15.10-\$25/btl. full retail)

STERLING VINEYARDS, 2002 71% NAPA COUNTY, 16% SONOMA COUNTY, 13% MENDOCINO COUNTY, \$152 (\$19) ★★★★★
A supple, full bodied, and very fruity, this Chardonnay is moderately intense, very drinkable, and long on the finish, tasting of tropical fruit, roasted nut, and oak. 95,000 cases. [2003-2004] 800.726.6136 

CHARDONNAY - Expensive: \$201/case & Up (\$25.10/btl. full retail & Up)

CUVAISON, 2001 ESTATE SELECTION, CARNEROS, \$272 (\$34) ★★★★★+
Perhaps the winery's best ever Chardonnay: full bodied, finely flavored, supple, and long on the palate, tasting of green apple, roasted nut, honey, vanilla, and toast. 1,000 cases. [2003-2004] 707.942.6266


DUTTON-GOLDFIELD, 2001 DUTTON RANCH, RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY, \$256 (\$32) ★★★★★
Luscious and complex in style, this is an elegant Chardonnay, which is crisp and zesty on the palate, finely flavored (apple, pineapple, roasted nut, butterscotch, lemon peel). Long finish. 1,400 cases. [2003-2004] 707.823.3887

SCHERRER WINERY, 2001 FORT ROSS VINEYARD, SONOMA COAST, \$240 (\$30) ★★★★★
An elegant Chardonnay, in a supple, full bodied style. It is finely flavored (peach, apple, hazelnut, vanilla, toasted oak), well balanced, and long on the finish. 360 cases. [2003-2004] 707.823.8980

TRUCHARD, 2001 CARNEROS, NAPA VALLEY, \$280 (\$35) ★★★★★
Full bodied and very complex in character, with intense flavors (peach, pineapple, roasted nut, pineapple, lemon peel); well balanced, crisp, and long on the finish. [2003-2004] 707.253.7153

VINE CLIFF WINERY, 2001 BIEN NACIDO VINEYARD, SANTA MARIA VALLEY, \$148/6 (\$37) ★★★★★
Excellent quality. Full bodied, supple, and finely flavored, with a very long finish. It tastes of peach, pineapple, vanilla, roasted nut, toasted oak, and lemon peel. 1,100 cases. [2003-2004] 707.944.1364

SAUVIGNON BLANC — Medium Priced: \$57-\$96/case (\$7.10-\$12/btl. full retail)

RANCHO ZABACO, 2002 DANCING BULL, CALIFORNIA, \$88 (\$11) ★★★★★
FIRST RELEASE. Exceptional value. A Sauvignon which is intensely flavored, full bodied, and crisp, tasting of lime, green apple, and lemon grass. 1.2% Semillon. 39,000 cases. [2003-2004] 707.431.5681 

Wholesale case price (9 liter case) is listed first: \$128. Retail per bottle price is listed in parentheses: (\$16).